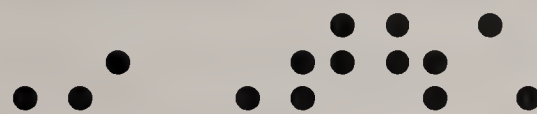




In Touch



***Newsletter by employees, for employees of the
American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.***

January / February 2002

Hall of Fame to Be Established at APH

Nancy Lacewell, Public Affairs

An exciting new initiative is underway at APH: establishment of the "Hall of Fame: Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field." It will be located on the 4th floor rear, next to the new Barr Library. Construction began in early January, and it is anticipated that the Hall of Fame will officially open next fall.

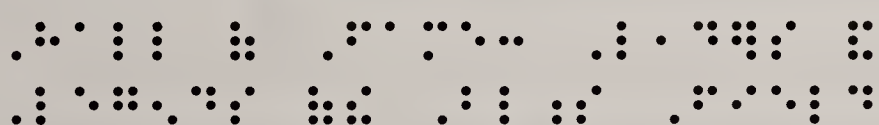
Designed to honor leaders in the field of vision, the Hall of Fame is being developed by a committee including APH staff and other experts in the field of vision. Participating staff members are **Tuck Tinsley** (President),



Don Keefe, Bob Brasher, Janie Humphries, Gary Mudd, and Will Evans stand in the area that will soon house the Hall of Fame.



HALL of FAME: LEADERS AND LEGENDS OF THE BLINDNESS FIELD



1839 FRANKFORT AVENUE • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40206

Mary Nelle McLennan (President's Office), **Gary Mudd** (Public Affairs), **Don Keefe** (Development), **Janie Humphries**, **Will Evans** (Advisory Services), and **Bob Brasher** (Products and Services). Experts outside of APH are **Burt Boyer** (CA), **Dr. Phil Hatlen** (TX), **Dr. Cay Holbrook** (B.C.), **Dr. Michael Nelipovich** (WI), **Dr. Susan Spungin** (NY), **Dr. Dean Tuttle** (CO), and **Naomi Tuttle** (CO).

A 1999 AER (Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired) presentation on the Heroes and Pioneers of Vision became the catalyst for APH's fledgling efforts to establish a Hall of Fame. Thirty-two leaders in the field of vision

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were spotlighted at a conference in Denver. These 32 individuals will represent the initial “class” of inductees into the Hall of Fame. A formal nominating process will be used to select inductees in subsequent years, and induction will probably be limited to one per year. Selection criteria are currently being developed, but it has been decided that individuals inducted must have been retired from the field for at least 5 years.

The Hall of Fame will include “bas relief” (tactile) plaques of each inductee, as well as biographical information and artifacts. Seed money for the project is being provided through the APH endowment fund, but funds will need to be raised for ongoing operations, purchasing plaques, and artifact cases. Fund-raising efforts will be coordinated through the APH Development Department under the direction of **Don Keefe**.

There is widespread support for the Hall of Fame throughout the field of vision, and that is a necessary component for its success, says **Bob Brasher**. “This is not solely an APH project,” Bob says. “It’s important that everyone in the field of vision feels a sense of ownership and participation because it really is their Hall of Fame.”

Bob continues, “It is exciting to see the support and enthusiasm that establishment of this Hall of Fame is creating. People who work in the field of vision are eager to keep their history alive and to learn from the work of the great professionals who came before them.”

Bob agrees with Dr. Dean Tuttle who says, “The paths that our heroes have blazed and the legacies they have left provide us with purpose and meaning.” ☯

The Ronecker Slate Collection

Carol Tobe, Callahan Museum, Public Affairs

A large and important braille slate collection has been added to the Callahan Museum.

David Ronecker (1918-2001) was an avid collector of slates and APH was able to acquire his collection after his death in September. Blind since birth, Ronecker attended the Missouri School for the Blind. He lived most of his life in Texas where he worked as a medical technician for the armed forces. In addition to his slate collecting hobby, David Ronecker had an extensive collection of big band recordings, was a ham radio operator, and an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan.

Judy Dixon, consumer relations officer for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a collector and authority on braille slates visited the museum on December 10 to help with accessioning

the collection. Judy was very enthusiastic and complimentary on the quality and variety of the 140 slates and 34 styluses in the Ronecker collection. ☯



Judy Dixon reviews the Ronecker Slate Collection



Customer Comments

Rosanne Broome, Customer Relations

The Long Arm of APH

Reported by **Fred Gissoni**

Customer Relations gets all sorts of requests from all over the world.

Recently, we received an email from a woman in the Australian state of Queensland. She said she wants to learn braille so that she might become a transcriber and asked if we might tell her how to go about it.


In order to help, we needed to find out if Australian braille follows British or American usage. We also wanted to find study materials and people who might be of help.

Using contacts developed over the years, Customer Relations learned that Australia follows British braille usage. We also obtained the title of a study guide and the email address of Australia's leading braille transcriber as well as the name of a braille group in the woman's home state.


Through the use of email, we were able to give the woman a complete answer within two weeks of her original request.

***Doug Trent** received this note from First Ward Alderwoman **Tina Ward Pugh** and her staff members **Adam Schneider** and **Lindsay Ann Mullaney**...*


"Thank you for your help in printing and distributing braille tickets and flyers for the Louisville Orchestra holiday concert... The American Printing House for the Blind

provides a wonderful service and we look forward to working with you in the future." (APH did this job as a community service, free of charge.) 

From an APH Ex Officio Trustee...

"We have ordered everything that our schools have requested to date. It was a great learning curve for our new staff. I'm thrilled that APH shopping is a multi-user system as we had three people entering information at the same time!" 

From a "first time" customer in Israel...

Yesterday I received from you a copy of the APH Products Catalog 2002-2003. I was very pleased to receive it. I found it to be very well organized and helpful. I found that the color coding of different product areas was very effective. I only hope to be able to find more money to order more of your products. We order our equipment through the Center for the Blind in Tel Aviv and just this week we received 3 of your Light Boxes and we have another one on order....We have 50 rehabilitation teachers working with our agency throughout the country of Israel....I would like more catalogs to distribute to our district offices....Thank you very much for your help." 

Send us your news for the next issue!

Ruth Wohner (Braille Transcription) and **Larry Skutchan** (Technical Research) were the first to guess that our featured employee this issue is **Debbie Willis** (Research). *Congratulations Ruth and Larry!*



Maria Delgado (Advisory Services) had her first peanut butter and jelly sandwich ever on Tuesday, November 7 at noon. Coworkers gathered on the 4th floor to witness this exciting event.



Eleanor Pester and **Maria Delgado**



Welcome new employees! **Sandi Baker** (Advisory Services), **Alice Barnes** (Development), **Lee Ann Jones** (Finance), **Donald Chapman**, **Tom Burch**, **Rodger Miller**, and **Sara Neel** (Studio), **Rose Hayes**, **Jimmy Lyvers**, and **Terrence Nord** (Tape Duplication), **Valerie Cox** (Educational Research).



Congratulations on your transfer, Arthur Vaughn! Arthur has moved from the Shipping and Receiving Department to Human Resources. In his new position of Chief Quality Officer, Arthur will coordinate the Continuous Improvement program, work with the Center for Quality Management (CQM), and work with **Marilyn Cheatham** on safety issues.

Aimee Lester (Customer Relations) is engaged to be married! She and her high school sweetheart, **Berley Cline**, will be married some time in the spring. *Best wishes, Aimee!*



Former Vice President of Products and Services, **Mary Nelle McLennan**, has been appointed Executive Advisor to the President. She will map and document processes throughout APH, help with planning and evaluation activities, and coordinate a variety of projects. Mary Nelle was married to **Dr. Richard (Rick) Welsh** on December 21 at her family home in Tennessee. Rick is president of Pittsburgh Vision Services. The “newlyweds” are living in Pittsburgh, but Mary Nelle will be traveling to Louisville and APH often. *We wish you the best, Mary Nelle and Rick!*




Congratulations, Mitzi Friedlander! Mitzi was recently appointed national cochair for 2002 of University of Louisville’s 50th reunion Golden Alumni Society. Mitzi will be raising funds for U of L and organizing several reunion events to be held May 9-11 for the graduating class of 1952. This includes all schools of the university! Mitzi was the first student to



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graduate from U of L with a Masters Degree in Theatre Arts. Mitzi was also recently named to the Atherton High School alumni Hall of Fame. *We're proud of you, Mitzi!* 

Mary Lee Frye is tickled pink to announce the birth of her first grandchild — a girl.



Aubrey Noel Frye was born on November 14 and weighed 7lbs., 4.25oz. *Congratulations, Mary Lee and family!*



Aaron Tyler Bratcher, the 7th great nephew of **Artina Paris**.



Sharon Murray Harrah (Studio) is pleased to announce the birth of her son **Theo** on January 3. Theo weighed 8lbs., 3ozs. *Congratulations, Sharon!*



Three very talented members of the Fox family work in the APH Studio. **Jack Fox** has been a narrator with APH since 1978, and reads both fiction and nonfiction, as well as *Reader's Digest* and *Newsweek*. He worked as a broadcaster on WHAS radio until 7 years ago. Jack's daughter **Jill** (l) is also a narrator, and has been with APH for almost 5 years. She graduated from Indiana University with a BFA in Photography, and has worked on radio stations WHAS, WFPL, and WFPK. Jill's sister **Heather** (r) has worked as a monitor in the studio for almost 6 months. She graduated from U of L with a degree in Political Science and Economics, and is in graduate school studying History.

Featured Employee

Debbie Willis



In Touch

Debbie Willis grew up in the Preston and Eastern Parkway area of Louisville, one of 10 children. She attended Mercy Academy where she graduated third in her class and was named “Star Student of the Year” in 1970. Debbie eventually graduated from Edgecliff College (now part of Xavier University) in Cincinnati. While in her undergraduate program, Debbie was in “Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities” and was inducted into Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology. She received a BA degree in psychology with a minor in math.

In 1974, straight out of college, Debbie joined APH. Her initial position was as research assistant to Carson Nolan, who was then in charge of educational research. While still working full-time at APH and with two young daughters, Debbie attended graduate school on a full scholarship and received an MA degree from Spalding College (now University) in the area of computers in education.

When asked about her most significant accomplishments since joining APH over 25 years ago, Debbie mentions three things she has found particularly rewarding: her work in assisting Dr. Natalie Barraga and June Morris to develop a program to improve efficiency in visual functioning, her role from the mid to late '90s in directing the educational research efforts and influencing changes within the company, and the fact that she recruited Larry Skutchan. (Besides being an all around great

guy and a guru of technology, Larry launched APH to talking software production, a significant advance.)

Over the years, Debbie has seen the Educational Research Department shift from research to primarily product development and believes we need to continue to support basic research so that we have the information needed to create effective educational tools and materials. Debbie continues to work in the Research Department, now focusing her efforts on establishing Test Central. This project is designed to develop standards for tests in all media, with an ultimate goal of providing high quality tests for all blind and visually impaired students.

Debbie and her husband Jack have two daughters they are very proud of; both are currently students at U of L. Jenny (21) is a senior interested in health and fitness, and is an accomplished ballet, modern, jazz dancer who also teaches dance to young students. Katie (20), a sophomore, is interested in art and computers, and is assistant manager of a local retail store. She is planning to major in art and minor in business. When Debbie is away from work, she spends as much time as possible with both her immediate and extended fami-



Debbie and Katie Willis

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lies. She is also a “lifelong learner,” and takes every opportunity to expand her knowledge in a wide variety of areas.

When asked if she had a message for her coworkers at APH, Debbie responded, “I just hope everyone knows what a great place APH is to work. Sometimes I think we all forget how valuable our work is. The work we do here at APH has a very broad impact —

across the country and around the world. Each employee plays an important role, and I would encourage everyone to do the best job possible.” ☯



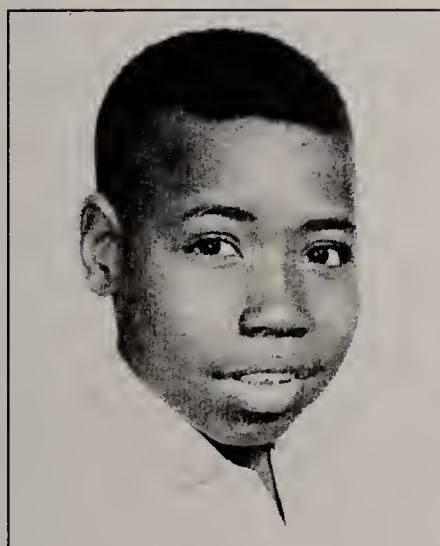
Jenny Willis

Treat Dog Guides as if they are invisible...

- The correct terms to use are either “guide dog” or “dog guide.” Other terms, such as “Seeing Eye” and “Guiding Eye” refer to names of training centers.
- Dog guides should not be petted or disturbed while working in harness. Since dog guides do not automatically know where to go and follow orders issued by the blind person, it is very important that they not be distracted. When a dog guide is not working, ask for permission before petting it.
- Never feed a dog guide. They are given a prepared diet and additional feeding may cause health problems and disturb their relief schedule.
- If you want to offer assistance to a person with a dog guide, first ask if he or she wants help. If so, offer the person your left elbow. Do not grab the dog guide, leash, harness, or the person’s arm.

If you have questions about how to treat a dog guide, don’t hesitate to ask the owner.

Featured Employee in the next issue of **APH In Touch**



Who is this? Some “helpful” clues...

- He is an avid pool shooter.
- He has been at APH for less than 15 years.
- He loves kids, and has several of his own.
- He is a big fan of TV news magazines (like *60 Minutes*).
- His favorite meal is fried chicken, pinto beans, and cornbread.

Birthdays



January

2 John Volz
5 Sandra Raley
6 Oliver Cullom
7 Phil Moore
9 Rhonda Carlton
Jo Ann Hardesty
11 Janis Gray
12 Nancy Etter
13 Matthew Witten
15 Bobbia Mackey
Tim House
18 David Hines
19 Rose Abbott
20 Rodger Miller
Phyllis Williams
22 Karen Blaker
Gary Jones

24 Paul Ehringer
25 Kwain Tarrence
29 Ronnie Overstreet
30 Carol Stewart
Tristan Pierce
Mary Oliver
Anna Fox

February

4 Arthur Vaughn
5 Helen Saltz
Kevin Saltz
6 John Richardson
7 Carol Tobe
8 Cassandra Garner
9 Mary Reinert
11 Butch Moore
Sharon Gatewood
12 Bobby Phelps

14 Randall Davidson
15 Vicki Mowman
Bernie Mudd
17 Jim Horstman
18 Todd Hasson
21 Donald Chapman
Barbara Rodgers
22 Bill Brymer
Gene Bolin
24 Susan Robertson
25 Roy Avers
27 Darlene Howard

March

1 Gary Tipton
2 Paul Zurkuhlen
3 Margaret Cosby
8 Beverly Jones

9 Katherine Donhoff
David Manteuffel
10 Terry Rogers
11 Angie Schulte
12 Chris Parente
13 Joyce Frank
16 Terry Sales
17 Richard Hauenstein
19 Cheryl Logan
21 Carolyn Nutter
23 Melissa Stokes
Marsha Overstreet
25 Rhonnie Sowers
26 Marilyn Cundiff
28 Heather Fox
Luann Lee
29 Andrea Peak
30 Anne Harlan
31 Mitzi Friedlander



Production Staff

Gary Mudd and Nancy Lacewell (Public Affairs)
Scott Blome and Bridgett Johnson (Communications)



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